



Cambridge International AS & A Level

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

9093/12

Paper 1 Reading

May/June 2023

2 hours 15 minutes

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.
- Dictionaries are **not** allowed.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This document has **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Section A: Directed response

Question 1

Read the following text, which is an article about happy and healthy ageing, published in a British newspaper.

(a) You disagree with some points in the article. Write a response to the editor, in the form of an email, expressing your opinions. Use 150–200 words. [10]

(b) Compare your email with the article, analysing form, structure and language. [15]

Do we really have to wait until we are 82 to find peak happiness?

As you grow older, it is tempting to think that you have left your happiest days behind.

The carefree days of your youth, when anything seemed possible, are worlds away, never to be relived.

Back then you had none of the restrictive trappings of later life – a mortgage, a job, others to provide for. And, most probably, you were fit and well. You had the rest of your life ahead. 5

I look back on my late teens and early twenties as the happiest years of my life so far, when I was a student, surrounded by friends and every day was fun and full of laughs.

But my happiest days could be yet to come – and a long way off. Experts say that our feelings of joy and contentment don't peak until the age of 82. 10

Leading neuroscientist Daniel Levitin says that older generations are much more cheerful than younger ones. The expert states that World Health Organisation data from 60 countries show that happiness grows with age.

He could be right. We tend to look at the past through rose coloured glasses. Come to think of it, the glory days of my late teens / early twenties were also full of insecurities. 15

Relationship woes were never far from the surface: will he / won't he call me? Does he / doesn't he like me? Will it / won't it last? At the time, it generated all sorts of worries.

Then there were all those exams, year after year. And body image.

I probably felt happier back then because those things were all I had to worry about. But I wasn't in any way in control of my life. 20

Later, as we begin to take some sort of path, come the real worries – how to make a living. Jobs, mortgages, car loans, bills, bills, bills ... And then, for many, children and the sometimes overwhelming, scary responsibility of supporting and raising a family, of keeping a roof over their head. 25

As Dr Levitin states in his book *The Changing Mind*, happiness declines in our 30s, but it starts to pick up once you reach 54.

I'm 59. I am certainly more settled than I was at 20 – I have a home, I have raised children who are now more-or-less self-sufficient, and, although I am no high flyer, I have built an enjoyable career.

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But life still isn't a bed of roses. I still have a mortgage, alongside an insecure job and an uncertain future. I can't claim my pension for another eight years. Life is still throwing plenty of stress in my direction.

The thought of having to go through another 23 years of this before I feel complete contentment is depressing to say the least.

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'You realise you've gotten through all these things that were stressing you out. If you make it to 82, you know you've managed, you're okay,' says Dr Levitin.

But will 82 really put me on cloud nine? I think it's more likely to put me in a care home. Those over 80 in good health should count themselves lucky.

I don't think true happiness is an age thing. Happiness is intermittent throughout life, appearing in fits and starts. It is, in my experience, about the little things: food and a decent film on Saturday nights, walks in the countryside, time with family and friends, toasted teacake with a good cup of tea.

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All these things bring pleasure.

But if we hit the ecstatic button at 82, then great. As I labour towards my eighties, I'll hang onto that thought.

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Section B: Text analysis

Question 2

Read the following text, which is an extract from a travelogue describing the filming of a travel documentary called *Around the World in Eighty Days*.

Analyse the text, focusing on form, structure and language.

[25]

Day 22: Crossing the Arabian Sea

The boat really comes to life at first light which, as we are moving east and have not yet adjusted our watches, comes a little earlier each day. I'm awake today at 5. The wind has dropped and the sea is flat and calm. Over the reassuring rumble of the engine I can hear the soft sound of singing. Pull myself up on an elbow and look towards the bows¹. There is Kasim, standing motionless and in perfect silhouette, looking out to sea and chanting. Beside him two or three others are gathering in the small foresail.

5

'ello Mi-kel!

'Mi-kel, Mik-el Jack-son!

As soon as they see we're awake someone is taken off foresail lashing and sent to arrange some tea for us. One of the things this traveller has learnt is that those who have least are prepared to give most. This crew has given up a lot for us – sleeping space, living space and precious fresh water – without ever making us feel obligated or tolerated. Their life is communal, they depend on each other rather than machines, and maybe because of this their attitude to us materially overstocked and somewhat stand-offish Westerners has been unfailingly generous and helpful.

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The captain takes a look at the sea and removes his cap, scratches his head and shakes it respectfully. 'We are lucky men,' he says. He's rarely seen it quite as calm, and he knows the power of the sea, for in a storm last year, his brother's ship was sunk and eighteen drowned.

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The captain and his navigator sleep in the back of the wheelhouse. A new music centre and a pair of speakers are the only luxury. The only printed books appear to be navigational charts and almanacs. The front of the wheelhouse contains, apart from the wheel, a compass, a clock that's stopped, a throttle control and a bell that's rung every time the fish-line is sprung. There is also a panel of dials indicating engine RPM², water temperature and oil pressure. None of these is working.

25

Under the wheelhouse is a fetid, windowless airless cabin which I hope we never have to make use of. The temperature in there hovers constantly at 100 degrees, and Julian and Ron, who have to go in to load film and change stock, emerge pounds lighter. The corresponding aft³ cabin is full of the crew's trunks. They are allowed one each in which they can import certain items free of duty. A perk of the job.

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Captain Suleyman says the Indian customs are very strict. No gold or guns.

'Is there much smuggling?' I ask him.

'Oh, plenty smuggling ... in clothes, ... wrist-watches ... but,' he reassures me, 'we are not smugglers,' and laughs uproariously.

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Midday: 92°F under the awning. We're due south of Karachi. Looking at my map I observe that it has taken us a day to travel between the 'A' and the 'R' of 'Arabian Sea'.

Sunday afternoon on the *Al Sharma*.

Suddenly there is some sea-borne entertainment. Dahwood, at the wheel, has spotted dolphins approaching the boat. They gather ahead of us, lazily and luxuriously rolling around in the bow wave, weaving in and out, diving, backtracking, returning and always keeping just ahead of the boat. The crew encourage them with drumbeats and whistles. As soon as they know there's an audience the dolphins show off shamelessly. For a magical few minutes they stay and play. The sea is so blue and clear it is one of the most remarkable and beautiful sights of the journey so far, rivalled a little later by the raising of the huge sail.

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¹*bow*: the front of a ship

²*RPM*: revolutions per minute

³*aft*: the back of a ship

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